CS
71
.C664
C666x
1870

In Memoriam.

MLO
Author's notes

OX
M-10
125.00

Page 6th, 4th line should read—"owners or occupants:" At this time or previous, the two brothers carried on business as Mercers in London.

H. C.

Page 10:—Died Apr. 7th, 1663. His will is dated 7th, Dec. He appointed his wife Hester and son John executors.

H. C.

Page 15:—"John Cook was, with one exception, the last survivor of the first comers of the "Mayflower."

H. C.

Page 17:—Josias Jr. married Debroah Hopkins, 27th, July, 1668. His children were Elizabeth, born 12th, October, 1669; (died 1670.) Josias, 12th, Nov., 1670; Richard, 1st. Sept., 1672; Elizabeth, 16th, June, 1674; Calib, 15th, Nov. 1676; Debroah, 28th, Apr., 1679; Joshua, 4th, Feb., 1683; Benjamin, 28th, Apr., 1687.

H. C.

Page 18:—Jacob Sen. married the widow Shurtliffe for his second wife:—not his son Jacob Jr. as stated in the work. Jacob Jr. married Lydia Miller, daughter of John Miller, 29, Dec. 1681. Jacob Cook married for his first wife, Damaris, daughter of Stephen Hopkins, 1647. Martha, his daughter married Elkana Cushman; she died 17th Sept. 1722. Jacob Jr. had children—William, born 5th, Oct., 1683; Lydia, 18th, May, 1685; Rebecca, 19th, Nov., 1688; Jacob, 16th, June, 1690; Margaret, 3d Nov., 1695; Josias, 16th, May, 1699.

H. C.

Page 20:—John Thompson died on the old homestead, (given him by Francis Cook, and situated in the present town of Middleborough.) 16th, June, 1696; Mary, his wife died 21st. March, 1715; Jane married Experience Mitchel, the founder of the family of that name in the old colony in 1628. Richard Wright who married Hester Cook, early settled in Marshfield, where his descendents are still numerous.

H. C.

A MEMORIAL

OF

FRANCIS COOK,

ONE OF THE

"First Comers" of the Plymouth Colony,

DECEMBER 22, 1620,

AND

OF HIS IMMEDIATE DESCENDANTS.

By HENRY COOK.

BOSTON:
PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.
1870.

BOSTON
RAND, AVERY, & FRYE, PRINTERS.

HAROLD B. LEE LIBRARY

THE following brief memoir of one of the founders of Plymouth Colony, a Pilgrim of "The Mayflower," is prepared with the sole object of perpetuating the memory, and keeping alive in the family of his descendants, one whose name and history should never be forgotten. For this purpose, fifty copies have been printed, for private distribution only, one of which is hereby presented to

---

with the best wishes of

THE AUTHOR.

Memorial.

FRANCIS COOK, the founder of the family of this name in the Old Plymouth Colony, was, with his oldest son John, the first-comers in "The Mayflower," and signed, with others of the company, the compact on board that vessel in Cape-Cod Harbor, Nov. 11, 1620.

From researches that have been instituted by his descendants within the few past years, it has been ascertained that he belonged to the family of Cooks of the parish of Blyth, of York and Nottingham, England, adjoining to Austerfield, the residence of Bradford and Brewster, the leaders of the Puritans into Holland, and ultimately to the shores of the New World.

In Rev. Mr. Baines's "History of the Parish of Blyth," ~~frequent~~ mention is made of the two families of Cooks, — Richard and Stansfield. The parish records attest to their ownership* of the old convent and manor of Blyth as early as 1540; and also of the births, deaths, and marriages which took place in their respective families to a much later date.

The subject of this memoir was born in 1577. Of his becoming a convert to the doctrines of the Separatists, and at what time he joined the congregation composed of Bradford, Brewster, and others of the Puritans of that place, it is unknown. When, to enjoy their religion free from persecution, they were obliged to leave their native land, he departed with the others for Holland. Here he resided with the Rev. Mr. Robinson's society, and was, early after his settlement here, married to Hester, a Walloon woman, a people inhabiting the southern provinces of Belgium; a people, who, like the English Puritans, had left their native land on account of religious persecutions. Bradford mentions him as one of the first-comers who had attained to a great age; "having seen his children's children have children," &c.

The others of his family — wife, sons, and daugh-

Page 6th, 4th line should read—"owners or occupants:" At this time or previous, the two brothers carried on bnsiness as Mercers in London.

H. C.

ters — came over in "The Ann;" landing at Plymouth in July, 1623. The names of his children were John (who came with his father in "The Mayflower"), Josias, Jacob, Hester (married Richard Wright, 21 Nov., 1644), Mary (married John Thompson, 26 Dec., 1645), Jane, and Elizabeth.

In the old plan of the settlement, and among the lots, I find Francis Cook's as the third on Leyden Street, and adjoining those of Edward Winslow and Isaac Allerton. Afterwards, when his family had joined him, and the settlement had considerably increased, he was granted a tract of land at Jones River, at a place called Rocky Nook (now comprised within the limits of Kingston); which grant was increased from time to time. Here many of his descendants still live. At the time of his death, according to the Old Colony Records, his place was known as Cook's Hollow. Of the early history of the family in the Old Colony, we have a very meagre account; depending mostly upon the old records, and the few contemporary histories. That he was a prominent member of the Plymouth colony, is evidenced by the many positions of honor and trust to which he was from time to time elected, or appointed by the Court, until old

age incapacitated him from active participation in the affairs of the colony.

In this connection, I am induced to transcribe from the Old Colony Records in relation to so much of his history; being only a part.

1633, the commencement of the records, I find his name among the list of freemen. In that year, and 1634, was appointed referee in the settlement of various affairs between the different members of the colony; and surveyor for laying out highways about Plymouth, &c. In 1636, received an apprentice, John Harmon, son of Edw. Harmon of London, tailor, for seven years. Details are given in regard to his clothing, and his pay at the end of his service; which was to be a double suit of clothing, and seven bushels of corn.

From 1636 to 1640, his name constantly appears in some capacity or other, performing important duties under the government. In 1640, he was associated with Howland, Pratt, and Cushman, in deciding the boundaries of the land of Mr. Thomas Prince and Clement Briggs, at Eel River; and in the same year received a large grant of land, with his son John, "bounding on the North River;" and in 1642 con-

tributed, with the same son, one pound sixteen shillings towards building a bark of "forty or fifty tons."

From 1642 to 1648, he seems to be constantly in some office or other connected with the administration of affairs. In these years, he also received another grant of land at "North Meddow," by Jones River. In 1648, he was appointed by the government, as juryman, to inquire into the murder of the child of Richard Bishop, found with its throat cut in its father's house. This was a child of four years, murdered by its mother, who afterwards confessed, and was hung for the crime.

In 1650, as one of the committee, he made their report on the laying-out of a highway to connect with the Massachusetts-Bay Colony.

In 1659, was again appointed by the Court as referee in the settlement of numerous accounts and boundaries of land between different members of the settlement.

In 1662, with his son John and others, was allowed to settle upon a tract of land lately purchased for a new settlement (this tract comprised the old town of Dartmouth, now comprising Dartmouth, New Bedford, &c.). I have no record that he ever removed thither:

the probability is, that he was only one of the proprietors, but never settled there, as, according to the records, he died the following year, aged 86. By his will, he left the homestead to his son-in-law, Richard Wright, who married his daughter Hester.

John Thompson (son-in-law), William Crow, and John Barker were appointed by the Court to administer upon his estate.

Page 10:—Died Apr. 7th, 1663. His will is dated 7th, Dec. He appointed his wife Hester and son John executors.

H. C.

JOHN COOK, the oldest son, early appears upon the records as a prominent personage in colonial affairs, and in after-years as a most noted member of the company while residing at Plymouth, and particularly after his removal to the new purchase of Dartmouth, in 1662. March 28, 1634, he married Sarah Warren. From this time, through a long life, he seems to have been engaged in official business. In 1639, was elected one of the governor's assistants, — an office, in those days, of much honor and importance.

When the schism arose in the church at Plymouth (of which he was at the time an elder), in regard to baptism, he took sides with the opposition, afterwards known as Baptist, and was excommunicated. In 1662, as above mentioned, he removed to Dartmouth, and was appointed by the Court the first magistrate of the town, an office which he held for many years; and, as the records show, was deputy from that town to the General Court for a long succession of years. Previously, he had held the office of deputy from Plymouth for a number of years, — from 1640 until his removal.

On the breaking-out of Philip's War, the town of Dartmouth was one of the first to feel its effects, and the house of John Cook was the first to suffer; being burned to the ground. I can learn of none of the family being killed. The probability is, that, knowing of their danger beforehand, they had early removed to a place of safety. On the division of Capt. Church's force in this neighborhood, when in pursuit of the savages, soon after, one party was ordered to "rendezvous at the ruins of John Cook's house." As a prominent person in colonial affairs and in the new settlement, it is very probable that he had increased the hostility of the Indians, having had much to do with them in the purchase of lands, &c.; as in 1665 I find he was appointed by the Court, with the Treasurer, to treat with King Philip about the sale of some lands in behalf of the colony. In the same year, he purchased for other parties the Island of "Nakatay;" and the Court ordered, that, unless they pay him for his trouble and expense in the same, he was to have it for his own use.

In 1637, he volunteered in Capt. Prince's company, for the Pequot War. 1654, as one of the deputies of Plymouth, he made the report of the Committee on

the Affairs between the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colonies.

In 1668, he was ordered by the Court to establish and maintain a ferry between Dartmouth and Rhode Island ; and in the same year he took the testimony of parties, and established the boundaries of the town, which had long been in dispute with the Indians. 1668, he was ordered to appear at court, and answer for trespass upon the lands of Samuel Fuller. I mention this case as something to the credit of the family, as, in a long course of years, this appears to be the only instance of any one of this name being engaged as defendant, for any cause whatever, in any of the courts. In 1672, he seems to be in a controversy with some of the settlers of the town. I transcribe from the records : —

" July 1, 1672 at this court, in the controversay between John Cook and several of the purchasers of Dartmouth, the court appointed Samuel Hicks, John Smith, and Pelig Trip, to settle the differences. They ordered that John Cook should have Ram Island, before given him by the town for former services, also 11 pounds for his services and disbursments, and 3 pounds for his damages and trouble, which 14 pounds

shal be paid to him or his order in good merchantable Pork, Beef and corn, in equal proportions, at or before the middle of Oct. next, or otherwise to his content, and in return he should deliver up the deeds of the lands to whoever the Town should appoint to receive them."

That he was not at variance with his neighbors, I would mention, that in the following year, 1673, he was again elected one of the two selectmen of the town, and deputy to the General Court at Plymouth. 1674, he settled the estate of Mrs. Elizabeth Warren, his mother-in-law. Same year, he had liberty of the Court, with Capt. Bradford and Joseph Bradford, to look out for more land for their accommodation.

In this "looking-out for more land," I imagine, is to be found one of the great sources of the constant trouble with the Indians. In regard to the almost total destruction of the town at the breaking-out of Philip's War, I find this year, 1675, Oct. 5, "John Cook, as magistrate of the town of Dartmouth, is ordered by the Court to communicate to the inhabitants their orders in regard to rebuilding and settling the town again." 1677, he was appointed by the town to receive their portion of the funds raised for the

relief of the Colony by "divers Christians" in Ireland (occasioned by the wars). In the controversy of the town with Dr. Cooper of Newport, R.I., for his attendance and services on William Dio, a pauper, John Cook, as magistrate, is ordered by the Court, March 5, 1678, to call a town-meeting of the inhabitants, for the purpose of receiving money to pay the bill, some time before October. His daughter Sarah married Arthur Hathaway, Nov. 20, 1652. He died, according to Dartmouth Records, Nov. 23, 1695. Bradford mentions him in the Appendix to his History, as one of the first-comers, still living, 1694; so that his death occurred the following year. Of his children, the records mention Hester, born Aug. 16. 1650; Sarah, who married Arthur Hathaway; Mercy, born Jan. 12, 1657; John.

These are all that are mentioned; but the probability is that there were several more.

Page 15:—"JOHN COOK was, with one exception, the last survivor of the first comers of the "Mayflower."

H. C.

JOSIAS COOK, son of Francis, came over with his mother, and other younger members of the family, in "The Ann;" landing at Plymouth July, 1623.

In 1634, I find him rated as a tax-payer; and in the following year, Sept. 16, was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Dean, widow. From this time, until 1641, I find his name often mentioned in the old records, receiving grants of land, being chosen several years as deputy to the General Court, and as occupying other offices of trust in the colony. About this time, he joined the party of Gov. Prince, for the settlement of Nawsett (Nauset), on Cape Cod; and June 1, 1647, was elected first deputy of the town to the General Court. 1648, he was appointed register of the town by the Court, and also as "agent to sell wine." From this period, to 1671, I find his name constantly occurring in the records as magistrate and deputy from Eastham, selectman of the town; and, on several occasions, was appointed by the Court to examine the accounts of the treasurer of the colony, and as agent of the colony to treat with certain Indians in the purchase of land, &c.

Josias Cook was one of the first proprietors of the present town of Abington, having, June 8, 1664, received, in company with Lieut. Joseph Rogers, Giles Hopkins, Henry Sampson, and Experience Mitchell, a grant of the Court "of all that tract of land lying between Bridgewater and the Mass. Bay Company," now comprising the above-mentioned town; a part of its history which its two historians have entirely overlooked. He died 1673; and his widow, Elizabeth, administered on his estate.

His daughter Ann married Mark Snow, Jan. 18, 1654, and died in child-bed, July 24, 1656. Of his other children, besides the above, mention is only made of Bethya, who married Joseph Harding, all of Eastham; and Josias, born Nov. 12, 1670.

3

Page 17:—Josias Jr. married Debroah Hopkins, 27th. July, 1668. His children were Elizabeth, born 12th, October, 1669; (died 1670.) Josias, 12th, Nov., 1670; Richard, 1st. Sept., 1672; Elizabeth, 16th, June, 1674; Calib, 15th, Nov. 1676; Debroah, 28th, Apr., 1679; Joshua, 4th, Feb., 1683; Benjamin, 28th, Apr., 1687.

H. C.

1679. Joshua 4 Feb. 1683.
Benjamin 28 April 1687.
H. C.

JACOB COOK, son of Francis, is first mentioned in the colony records as a volunteer in Capt. Prince's company for the Indian War, June, 1637; and in 1648 was made a freeman. The records make frequent mention of his name in the colonial affairs, as holding offices in the town of Plymouth, &c. On the removal of Gov. Prince to Eastham, he sold his house and lands at Rocky Nook, adjoining the land of his father, Francis Cook, and removed with the governor's party to the above town, where he resided until his death, which occurred July 7, 1676.

Of his children, there are records of Elizabeth, born Jan. 18, 1647; married Daniel Wilcockes, Nov. 28, 1661 (this is according to the record; but I think it must be a mistake in the date, as she would be only fourteen years of age in 1661). Caleb, born March 29, 1651. Jacob, March 26, 1653 (married Elizabeth Shirtleffe, widow, Nov. 18, 1669). Mary, born Jan. 12, 1657. Martha, born March 16, 1659. Francis, born Jan. 5, 1662. Ruth, born Jan. 17, 1665.

Caleb Cook, above mentioned, was the one known in after-years as the friend and companion of Capt.

Page 18:—JACOB SEN. married the widow Shurtliffe for his second wife:—not his son Jacob Jr. as stated in the work. Jacob Jr. married Lydia Miller, daughter of John Miller, 29, Dec. 1681. Jacob Cook married for his first wife, Damaris, daughter of Stephen Hopkins, 1647. Martha, his daughter married Elkana Cushman; she died 17th Sept. 1722. Jacob Jr. had children—William, born 5th, Oct., 1683; Lydia, 18th, May, 1685; Rebecca, 19th, Nov., 1688; Jacob, 16th, June, 1690; Margaret, 3d Nov., 1695; Josias, 16th, May, 1699.

H. C.

Church in all his campaigns, both in Philip's wars, and afterwards at the eastward; in the last of which he bore a captain's commission. At the time of Philip's death, when the English had surrounded his hiding-place, Caleb Cook was stationed with an Indian called Alderman on the outskirts of the swamp where Philip was concealed; and, on the appearance of that noted chief, Cook leveled his gun, but it missed fire. Alderman then took his turn, fired, and shot Philip directly through the heart. After this noted exploit, Cook induced Alderman to change guns with him; and for many generations this piece remained an heir-loom with his descendants. Some years ago, they were induced to give the lock to Mr. Lothrop, who, I believe, presented it to the Antiquarian Society; and more recently the gun itself was deposited in Pilgrim Hall, Plymouth, where it can now be seen by the curious.

For other and more extended accounts of Caleb, I would refer to "Church's Indian Wars," and other writers on the same subjects.

Of the remaining children of Francis Cook, Hester, Mary, Jane, and Elizabeth, I find but a very meagre record. Hester married Richard Wright, Nov. 21

1644, who, by will of his father-in-law, inherited the old homestead at Jones River, known in those times as Cook's Hollow, now included, as I have before mentioned, in the present town of Kingston. Besides the homestead, Francis Cook divided equally between Richard Wright and John Thompson a large tract of land, granted to him by the Court, at Nemassakett.

Mary married John Thompson, Dec. 26, 1645. No particular record of him is found until 1665, when I find him approved by the Court as one of the selectmen of Barnstable.* (uncertain)

Of the remaining daughters, Jane and Elizabeth, I find no record of them, other than being daughters of Francis.

In Hobart's "History of Abington" (Boston, 1868) may be found a partial genealogy of the family, referring particularly as it does to that one branch (Levi Cook, the sixth in descent from Francis) who settled there, 1772.

Page 20:—John Thompson died on the old homestead, (given him by Francis Cook, and situated in the present town of Middleborough.) 16th, June, 1696; Mary, his wife died 21st. March, 1715; Jane married Experience Mitchel, the founder of the family of that name in the old colony in 1628. Richard Wright who married Hester Cook, early settled in Marshfield, where his descendents are still numerous.

H. C.

John Thompson died on the homestead
given him by his father in law. Francis
Cook. situated in the present-
town of Middleborough.
H. C.

Richard Wright who married
Hester Cook early settled in
Marshfield. where his descendants
are still numerous.
H. C.

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
3 1197 22112 4057